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11 July 1952

ENCLOSURE 2

BASIC QUESTIONS

1. To what extent have the policies which govern the national psychological programs been applied? As shown in Enclosure 1, it has been sought to apply them fully for Latin American countries.

In which areas is policy clarification necessary?

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a. As shown in Enclosure 1, policy clarification from State is underway as to OPC covert operations

~~As shown in Enclosure 1, the general directives in the CIA/NSC Strategic Plan, based on general NSC policy, tend to require far broader covert activity than is authorized as a matter of policy by ARA of State in view of the Good Neighbor and non-intervention policies. In practice this creates a~~

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~~Recommendation:~~ Severance by Venezuela of diplomatic relations with Russia and Czechoslovakia represents a notable shift; last year's petroleum conference also indicated an increase of U.S. influence in official circles in Venezuela with respect to U.S. private investment; however, the precarious political situation in Venezuela, the undoubted popularity of the Accion Democratica party, and the

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probability of increased radicalism on the part of this party as it is forcibly withheld from power, augur ill for the future. Soviet power and influence have been decreased in Cuba through the removal of the Soviet Legation from Havana, and recent U.S. collaboration with Brazil on provision of capital and economic development have notably increased U.S. overt capabilities there. As a probable result of these and related developments, it is indicated that the Soviet Union is placing greater emphasis on its covert mechanisms in Latin America.

3. To what extent have U.S. capabilities been employed in carrying out a national psychological program? Which U.S. actions have proven most effective in realizing the programs? See paragraph 3 of Enclosure 1.

On the basis of experience during the preceding year, which of our capabilities should be reinforced, increased, or developed?

The covert field organization and mechanisms ~~illustrated to date by Enclosure 1~~, should be reinforced, increased and developed, with particular emphasis on indigenous mechanisms having no apparent U.S. bias or contact.

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Latin America is an area unique for the United States, among other things, in the overt Good Neighbor and non-intervention policies of long standing, and in the powerful reasons necessitating those overt policies.

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4. What are the major factors which now impede the successful prosecution of our national psychological program?

a. The constitutionally and traditionally overt nature of U.S. Government action as to policy, management, administration, budget, accountability, and paperwork, all in combination with the relative newness of covert executive action to the United States. This tends to create top-heavy overt systems at all levels in these fields which (1) create the most serious security risks, a matter particularly serious to the national interest in Latin America, (2) produce in some cases policies and directives not based on an ascertainment of the precise situation to be met, (3) load down operational personnel with a great weight of often repetitive paperwork which does not contribute to and which often greatly hinders effective operation, (4) require reference of minute details up a long line of approval, greatly

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restricting the capabilities of operational personnel in the field, injuring morale, foreclosing the exploitation of many valuable targets of opportunity, and tending to create some unrealistic and dangerous action.

b. The resulting retention at headquarters of excessive personnel, lack of sufficient trained personnel in the field, and the long lead-time needed to mount covert operations.

Indicate the strength of the enemy and other deterrents, such as prevailing conditions in certain areas (nationalism, economic instability, etc.) See paragraph 1 of Enclosure 1.

Indicate also the extent to which our major alliances represent an impediment to the successful conduct of our national psychological program.

a. U.S. concentration on European matters, and particularly the large quantities of money expended in that area, have given rise to Latin American charges that the U.S. is neglecting its natural and truest friends. This, however, should have little effect on ~~WFO~~ missions, with the possible exception of the mission to combat anti-Americanism in the area.

b. Collaboration with Franco Spain is, of course, a deterrent, though a minor one, in Latin America. Since Latin America is a refuge for many Spanish Republicans, any such collaboration furnishes one minor theme for Soviet propaganda.



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